IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims in the application as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for classifying vertically partitioned data comprising the steps of:

categorizing subsets of classifiers for the partitioned data;

determining class labels for a data pattern of the partitioned data for which the ~~classifier~~ subsets of classifiers are consistent;

estimating posterior probabilities for the class labels of consistent classifier subsets; and

approximating the posterior probability of the partitioned data based upon the estimated posterior probabilities of the consistent classifier subsets.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of using a predetermined consistency condition for a classifier with respect to other classifiers.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~the~~ a step of determining the mutual consistency of each classifier with respect to the other classifiers in a classifier subset.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the posterior probability is approximated from the estimated posterior probabilities using a Bayesian framework.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the class label is selected for ~~the~~ test data for which ~~the~~ a combined posterior probability is maximum.

6. A computer program product for classifying partitioned data comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

categorizing subsets of classifiers for the partitioned data;

determining class labels for a data pattern of the partitioned data for which the ~~classifier~~ subsets of classifiers are consistent;

estimating posterior probabilities for the class labels of consistent classifier subsets; and

approximating the posterior probability of the partitioned data based upon the estimated posterior probabilities of the consistent classifier subsets.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer system for classifying partitioned data comprising computer software recorded on a computer-readable medium for said computer system comprising ~~performing the steps of~~:

computer software code means for categorizing subsets of classifiers for the partitioned data;

computer software code means for determining class labels for a data pattern of the partitioned data for which the classifier subsets are consistent;

computer software code means for estimating posterior probabilities for the class labels of consistent classifier subsets; and

computer software code means for approximating the posterior probability of the partitioned data based upon the estimated posterior probabilities of the consistent classifier subsets.

Please add the following new claims:

8. (New) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of using a predetermined consistency condition for a classifier with respect to other classifiers.

9. (New) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a step of determining the mutual consistency of each classifier with respect to the other classifiers in a classifier subset.

10. (New) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, wherein the posterior probability is approximated from the estimated posterior probabilities using a Bayesian framework.

11. (New) The computer program product as claimed in claim 6, wherein the class label is selected for test data for which a combined posterior probability is maximum.

12. (New) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising computer software code means for using a predetermined consistency condition for a classifier with respect to other classifiers.

13. (New) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising computer software code means for determining the mutual consistency of each classifier with respect to the other classifiers in a classifier subset.

14. (New) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the posterior probability is approximated from the estimated posterior probabilities using a Bayesian framework.

15. (New) The computer system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the class label is selected for test data for which a combined posterior probability is maximum.